[26th March 1929

(*i*) To the Government, except in the case of two panchayats, Dalavoipatnam and Eraiyur which have been specially authorized to appropriate the compounding fees.

(*j*) Sections 55 and 66 of the Madras Forest Act.

(*k*) & (*l*) The Government are not aware of such a distinction nor of anything special in the constitution of panchayats in the North Arcot district.

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" With reference to clauses (*b*) and (*c*), may I know whether the panchayats in carrying out the conditions are to be guided by the rules framed by the Government under chapter 3 of the Forest Act, or by the rules governing reserved forests? "

* The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether if any portion which was not hitherto in the reserved portion is now included in the panchayat area, the panchayat is free to exercise its jurisdiction under chapter 3 of the Act over that area? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That is asking for an opinion."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" With regard to the cancellation, Sir, the two clauses seem to conflict with each other. 'Failure to comply with any of the conditions above mentioned will be a ground for the cancellation of this agreement.' 'The Board of Revenue reserves the right of such cancellation, without assigning any reason whatsoever.' May I know whether the hon. the Revenue Member will revise them so that the doubt may be cleared? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The whole question is under consideration."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" What is the statutory basis for these agreements? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Notice."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government have any intention of bringing in a law to regulate the conduct of forest panchayats, and take the vote of the House on that law? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" There is at present no such intention."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know what they are going to do in the matter? What other measures are they going to take? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" If the object cannot be obtained except by legislation then the Government will resort to legislation."

Irrigation

Investigation of the extension of the Kistna East Bank Canal.

* 1872 Q.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any establishment was appointed during 1927–28 and 1928–29 for the investigation of the extension of the Kistna East Bank canal;

(b) if so, how much amount has been spent so far for the said investigation;

(c) whether the investigation is continuing or has been abandoned;

(d) if it has been abandoned, at what stage it was abandoned, when and why; and

(e) when it will be taken again?

A.—(a) Yes. About three and a half months during 1927–28 and four and a half months during 1928–29.

(b) Information as to the exact amount spent is not available with Government.

(c), (d) & (e) Block levels over the whole of the area commanded by the East Bank canal and extension and alignment of channels, etc., and certain other preliminary work had been done up to the middle of August 1928 when the sanction expired.

The question of the extension of the Kistna East Bank canal is part of the scheme for extension of irrigation in the Kistna delta, consequent on the installation of 6 feet shutters over the Kistna anicut, which is to be investigated by a special division to be formed next year.

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know what will be the length of the proposed extension of the canal?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"That depends upon the result of the investigation."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO:—"From the result of the investigation so far made, may I know what will be the length of the canal?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"I must ask for notice."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO:—"How many acres will be irrigated by the proposed extension?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"That is the very point that is being investigated."

Issue of water for irrigation to lands under the Kistna ayacut.

*1873 Q.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have decided to give water only for short crop but not for the ordinary crop for about thirty thousands of acres to be included in ayacut under the extension of ayacut scheme in Kistna Eastern delta;

(b) whether it is a fact that there will be plenty of water available to be supplied for the ordinary wet crop for all those acres consequent on the heightening of the shutters of the Kistna anicut;

(c) whether it is a fact that the short crop is not advantageous to ryots and will not induce many to convert their dry lands into wet; and

(d) whether the Government intend to reconsider the matter and order the supply of water for the ordinary crops for all the acres to be newly included in the ayacut?